

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Director, FBI (105-37137)

DATE: 10/27/65

FROM : SAC, Memphis (100-4234) (RUC)

SUBJECT: JOHN OLIVER KILLENS;
SM - C

NEW YORK OO

Reurlet dated 9/9/65.

The following inquiry at Nashville, Tenn., was conducted by SA [redacted] on dates indicated:

On 9/30/65 [redacted] Fisk University, advised that JOHN O. KILLENS had been designated as writer-in-residence at Fisk and has served in this capacity for over a year. He came to Fisk from New York and his work consists primarily of talking with students who aspire to be writers. [redacted] does not know KILLENS personally. He knows that KILLENS has written several novels. [redacted] stated that he knew nothing concerning KILLENS' activities, past affiliations or activity.

On 10/22/65 [redacted] Fisk University, advised his records reflect that JOHN O. KILLENS was designated author-in-residence at Fisk in February, 1965, and he served in this capacity until 5/30/65. He was redesignated in this capacity in September, 1965, for the school year of 1965 - 1966. He resides in Burrows Apartments, Apartment 25, Fisk University Campus, which is located at 16th and Meharry Blvd. [redacted] stated that he knows very little concerning KILLENS except that he counsels with aspiring artists and knows nothing concerning his past, organizational affiliations or political beliefs. [redacted] stated that he knew of no travel on the part of KILLENS but stated that he believed that he left the Fisk Campus on 5/30/65 and probably the Nashville area.

- ② - Bureau (REGISTERED MAIL)
 - 1 - WFO (INFO) (REGISTERED MAIL)
 - 2 - New York (100-102397) (REGISTERED MAIL)
 - 1 - Memphis
- HH:mjh
(6)

FX-117

REC 30

105-37137-22

1 OCT 29 1965

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/21/02 BY 50201/K/ST

SUB CONTROL

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

ME 100-4234

On 10/25/65 [redacted] Central Records Division, Nashville - Davidson County Metropolitan Police Department, advised that she could locate no record in her files identifiable with JOHN OLIVER KILLENS.

b7C

For information and for assistance of New York in this matter, SA [redacted] recalls reviewing a subversive publication sometime during the early part of the Summer of 1965 which dealt with the Writers Conference in East Germany. SA [redacted] recalls several photographs in this publication and believes that one of these photographs depicted JOHN O. KILLENS and so identified him. The name of this publication is not recalled, although it is believed to be "The Liberator" or possibly "The Worker" or "Daily Peoples World," exact copy not recalled.

SAC, New York (100-102397)

11/3/65

REC 30
Director, FBI (105-37137) — *22*

1 ☐
1 ☐

b7C

**JOHN OLIVER KILLENS
SECURITY MATTER - C**

*0-1 to NY (LHM)
11/12/65 m2*

ReMElet 10/27/65.

For your information, Bureau files show that a photo of John Killens, which is referred to in referenced letter, is contained on page 8 of the 6/6/65, edition of "The Worker." In addition, an article concerning a group of writers who gathered at Weimar, German-Democratic Republic, during May, 1965, is set out on page 7 of the Saturday, 6/19/65, edition of "People's World." That article sets out the name of John O. Killens as one of the individuals who attended the conference.

WHF:bac
(5) *bac*

NOTE:

Subject is on Section A of the Reserve Index. He reportedly traveled abroad and New York in referenced letter set out leads in an effort to verify the travel.

11/21/65 SP2MLT/kpk

Tolson _____
DeLoach _____
Mohr _____
Bishop _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

MAIL ROOM ☒ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Director, FBI (Bufile - 105-37137)) DATE 11/9/65

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (100-102397) ✓

SUBJECT : JOHN OLIVER KILLENS
SM-C
(OO: NEW YORK)

Re _____

☐ It is recommended that a "Section A" Reserve Index Card be prepared on the above-captioned individual☒ The "Section A" Reserve Index Card on the captioned individual should be changed as follows (specify change only)

Name			
Aliases			
<input type="checkbox"/> Native Born <input type="checkbox"/> Naturalized <input type="checkbox"/> Alien <input type="checkbox"/> Communist <input type="checkbox"/> Socialist Workers Party <input type="checkbox"/> Miscellaneous (specify) _____			
Date of birth	Place of birth	Race	Sex <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female
Business Address (show name of employing concern and address) Author, at Residence Fisk University Nashville, Tenn.			
Key Facility Data			
Geographical Reference Number		Responsibility	
Interested Agencies		105-37137-	
Residence Address Add: Temporary residing at Burrows Apts. Apt. 25, Fisk University Campus 16th & Meharry Blvd., Nashville, Tenn.			

 2 - Bureau
 1 - New York
 57 NOV 22 1965
 REGISTERED MAIL
 (3)

SUBV. CONTROL

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (105-37137)

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (100-102397) - C -

SUBJECT: JOHN OLIVER KILLENS
SM - C

DATE: 11/17/65

Re Memphis letter to the Bureau, 10/27/65, and WFO letter to the Bureau, 10/14/65.

Enclosed for the Bureau are five copies of a LHM reflecting subject's reported travel abroad during the Summer of 1965.

The LHM has been stamped "Confidential" inasmuch as it contains information furnished by confidential sources identified hereinafter, the unauthorized disclosure of which might tend to compromise these sources who are of continuing value, to the detriment of the National Defense.

An FD 122-A, reflecting subject's temporary residence at Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee, has been submitted. It is noted that NY letter to the Bureau, dated 9/9/65, under above caption, revealed that subject's spouse noted that subject would continue his permanent residence in Brooklyn, therefore, UACB, NY will retain origin in this case.

For the information of the Memphis Office, the following is noted:

Subject's name appeared on a 1949 CP nominating petition. JAMES JACKSON left a message for subject to contact him at National CP Headquarters in January, 1951. Subject admitted in 1942, membership with Washington Committee for Democratic Action, and admitted being a delegate to the American Youth Congress prior to 1942. Subject's book, "Young Blood", was reviewed by the "Daily Worker" in April, 1956. He was elected a member-at-large on the staff of the Brooklyn NAACP in December, 1955.

- 2 - Bureau (Encls. 5) (RM)
- 1 - Memphis (100-4234) (Info) (RM) - C-49
- 1 - New York

WRC:kgd
(4)

25 NOV 18 1965

ENCLOSURE

SUBV. CONTROL
REQ. REC'D
REPT. FORM
JAN 1966



5010-108

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

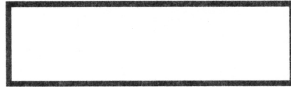
b7C

NY 100-102397

A source, in October, 1957, advised subject, in 1952, was active in the Executive Board of the Bedford-Stuyvesant Section of the Kings County CP, and that source believed subject, as of October, 1957, was still a CP member because of his contacts with known CP members. Subject, in 1963, spoke at the Militant Labor Forum sponsored by the Socialist Workers Party at NY, and his name and address was contained on a mailing list of the Fair Play For Cuba Committee in 1963. His name was also contained on an SWP calendar of coming events in 1963.

The confidential sources referred to in the LHM are identified as follows:

- 1.
- 2.



b2

b7D



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
New York, New York

In Reply, Please Refer to

File No. Bufile 105-37137 ✓
NYfile 100-102397 ✓

JUN 11 1965

John Oliver Killens ✓
Security Matter - C

The June 6, 1965 edition of "The Worker", on page eight, contains a photograph of subject, described as a Negro-American Novelist, who is pictured observing two other individuals, described as former Buchenwald Concentration Camp inmates, greeting each other at a Weimar, German Democratic Republic Convention of writers from 52 countries.

The article, beginning on page seven in that issue, described the gathering as a commemoration of the 20th anniversary of liberation from Hitler facism and the 30th anniversary of the Paris Writers' Congress. According to the article, the meetings began in Berlin, on May 14, 1965 and ended in Weimar, on May 19, 1965.

It is further noted that an article concerning a group of writers who gathered at Weimar, German - Democratic Republic, during May 1965, is set out on page seven of the Saturday, June 19, 1965 edition of "People's World". That article sets out the name of John Oliver Killens as one of the individuals who attended the conference.

It is noted that "The Worker" is an East Coast Communist newspaper, and "People's World" is a West Coast Communist newspaper.

The subject maintains his permanent residence with his wife, Grace Ward Jones Killens, at 1392 Union Street, Brooklyn, New York, and is an author-in-residence at Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee, for the school year of 1965-66. He is presently residing temporarily while at Fisk University in Burrows Apartments, Apartment 25, Fisk University Campus, which is located at 16th and Meharry Boulevard, Nashville, Tennessee.

11/20/02 SP2MLT/kpk

COPIES DESTROYED

13 MAY 15 1972

105-37137-23
ENCLOSURE

X

John Oliver Killens

On September 22, 1964, a confidential source, who has furnished reliable information in the past, related that at a conference in the office of the Progressive Labor Movement, on September 21, 1964, it was decided to make a movie on the poor conditions in Harlem. According to this confidential source, the subject was to write the script of the film.

For a characterization of the Progressive Labor Movement, see the appendix.

On July 5, 1964, a second confidential source, who has furnished reliable information in the past, furnished information that at that time he learned that subject wanted to help the Organization of Afro-American Unity.

For a characterization of the Organization of Afro-American Unity, see the appendix.

The subject is described as follows:

Sex	Male
Race	Negro
Date of Birth	January 14, 1916
Height	Five feet, nine inches
Weight	140 pounds
Build	Medium
Hair	Black
Eyes	Brown
Complexion	Dark

John Oliver Killens

1.

APPENDIX

PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY (PLP)
PROGRESSIVE LABOR MOVEMENT (PLM)

A source advised on April 20, 1965, that the PLP, formerly known as the PLM, held its first national convention April 15-18, 1965, at New York City, to organize the PLM into a PLP. The PLP will have as its ultimate objective the establishment of a militant working class movement based on Marxism-Leninism.

"The New York Times," City Edition, Tuesday, April 20, 1965, page 27, reported that a new party of "revolutionary socialism" was formally founded on April 18, 1965, under the name of the PLP. The PLP was described as an outgrowth of the PLM. Its officers were identified as MILTON ROSEN, New York, President, and WILLIAM EPTON of New York and MORT SCHEER of San Francisco, Vice Presidents. A 20-member National Committee was elected to direct the party until the next convention.

According to the article, "The Progressive Labor Movement was founded in 1962 by Mr. ROSEN and Mr. SCHEER after they were expelled from the Communist party of the United States for assertedly following the Chinese Communist line."

The PLP publishes the "Marxist-Leninist Quarterly," a theoretical magazine; "Progressive Labor," a monthly magazine; "Challenge," a New York City newspaper; and "Spark," a west coast newspaper.

The June 1, 1965, issue of "Challenge," page 6, states that, "this paper is dedicated to fight for a new way of life—where the working men and women own and control their homes, factories, the police, courts, and the entire government on every level."

The source advised that the PLP utilizes the address of General Post Office Box 808, Brooklyn 1, New York, but also utilizes an office in Room 622, 132 Nassau Street, New York City, where PLP publications are prepared.

John Oliver Killens

1.

APPENDIX

ORGANIZATION OF AFRO-AMERICAN
UNITY, INCORPORATED (OAAU)

On June 28, 1964, MALCOLM X LITTLE, founder and leader of the Muslim Mosque, Incorporated (MMI), publicly announced the formation of a new, all Negro, militant civil rights action group to be known as the Organization of Afro-American Unity (OAAU), with himself as Chairman. This announcement was made at a public rally held by the MMI in the Audubon Ballroom, Broadway and 166th Street, New York City.

A printed and published statement of basic OAAU aims read by MALCOLM X at this meeting indicates that it shall include "all" people of African descent in the Western Hemisphere, as well as "our" brothers and sisters on the African continent. It is patterned after the "letter and spirit" of the Organization of African Unity established (by African heads of States) at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in May, 1963.

A recording of the remarks of MALCOLM X at this meeting indicates that the aim of the OAAU is to eliminate differences between Negroes so they can work together for "human rights," while the initial objective is to "internationalize" the American civil rights movement by taking it to the United Nations. LITTLE condemned the non-violent civil rights movement and claims that Negroes should be taught to protect themselves, when and if necessary. The OAAU will sponsor a program for Negroes of education, politics, culture, economics, and social reform.

On May 17, 1965, a confidential source advised that the headquarters of the OAAU are located in MMI headquarters, Suite 128, Hotel Theresa, 2090 7th Avenue, New York City.

MALCOLM X was assassinated on February 21, 1965, while addressing an OAAU rally at the Audubon Ballroom, New York City.

John Oliver Killens

2.

APPENDIX

ORGANIZATION OF AFRO-AMERICAN
UNITY, INCORPORATED (OAAU)

On April 13, 1965, a second confidential source advised that on March 26, 1965, the OAAU filed a Certificate of Incorporation with the Department of State, State of New York, Albany, New York, and henceforth the organization's true name will be Organization of Afro-American Unity, Incorporated.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO: SAC, New York (Your file 100-102397 DATE: 11/18/65)FROM: Director, FBI (Bufile and Serial 105-37137)SUBJECT: Room No. [REDACTED]John Oliver RILENS
SM - C☒ Post in file and
destroy 0-1
(For SOG use
only)

S. WHF/for

☐ 1. Bufiles indicate this case is delinquent. Give specific reason for delinquency☐ See letter & LHM 11/17/65☒ 2. DATE ☐ airtel ☒ letterhead memo ☐ submitted
☐ report ☒ letter ☐ 90-day progress letter ☐ will be submittedReporting employee WJ☐ 3. If valid reason exists for not submitting report at this time, state reason specifically and when report will be submitted☐ 4. Status of ☐ Appeal ☐ Inquiry☐ 5. Submit ☐ airtel ☒ letter ☐ letterhead memoSEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
NOV 19 1965
FBI - NEW YORK

by

(Place reply hereon and return to Bureau. Note receipt and acknowledgment on top serial in each file)

100-102397

GPO 887

DIRECTOR, FBI [redacted] (S)

10/11/67

SAC, [redacted] (C)
(P)

b1

b1

[redacted] (C)

[redacted] (S)

[redacted] (S)

[redacted] (S)

[redacted] (S)

[redacted] (S)

WFO files reveal JOHN OLIVER KILLENS is the subject of an investigation of this Bureau, NYO origin. Undoubtedly, above information pertains to him and is submitted for information.

- 3 - Bureau (1- 105-37137)
- 2 - Memphis (105-) (RM) (1- 100-4234) (S)
- 2 - New York [redacted] (RM) (1- 100-102397)
- 2 - WFO (1- 105-11703)

b1

WLS:smm
(95) OCT 17 1967

11/22/02
CLASSIFIED BY WLS/mjt/cph 60267-ACM
DECLASSIFY ON: 25X16
FOIPA # 967567

105-37137

180 OCT 18 1967

(S)
[redacted]

b1
ORIGIN

F B I

Date: 11/27/67

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI [redacted] (s)
 FROM : SAC, NEW YORK [redacted] (s) (P)
 SUBJECT : [redacted] (s)

b1

b1

(s)

ORIGINAL FILED IN

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

- ④ - Bureau [redacted] (s) (RM)
 (1 - 105-37137) (Killens)
 2 - Newark (RM)
 1 - Memphis (100-4234) (Info.) (RM)
 1 - New York (100-102397) (Killens)
 1 - New York [redacted] (s)

105-37137-

NOT RECORDED

183 NOV 30 1967

JFS:RM
(11)

b1

11/27/02
 CLASSIFIED BY SP5/MLT/ab-60267-AMC
 DECLASSIFY ON: 25X16

CARBON COPY

234
62 DEC 6 1967Approved: [Signature]
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

~~SECRET~~

[redacted] (s)

b1

[redacted]

[redacted] (s)

[redacted]

b1

[redacted] (s)

[redacted]

[redacted] (s)

[redacted]

[redacted] (s)

JOHN OLIVER KILLENS' name appeared on a 1949 CP nominating petition. JAMES JACKSON left a message for KILLENS to contact him at National CP Headquarters in January, 1951. KILLENS admitted in 1942 membership with Washington Committee for Democratic Action and admitted being a delegate to the American Youth Congress prior to 1942. KILLENS' book, "Young Blood", was reviewed by the "Daily Worker" in April, 1956. He was elected a member-at-large on the staff of the Brooklyn NAACP in December, 1955. A source, in October, 1957, advised KILLENS, in 1952, was active in the Executive Board of the Bedford-Stuyvesant Section of the Kings County CP, and that source believed KILLENS, as of October, 1957, was still a CP member because of his contacts with known CP members. KILLENS, in 1963, spoke at the Militant Labor Forum sponsored by the Socialist Workers Party at NY, and his name and address was contained on a mailing list of the Fair Play For Cuba Committee in 1963. His name was also contained on an SWP calendar of coming events in 1963.

On 11/2/67, [redacted] advised that one [redacted] (ph) b2 contacted the Soviet Mission to the United Nations (SMUN). [redacted] (ph) claimed that he had spoken to [redacted] b7C in the past few days, at the UN, and was invited to visit t

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO :

DIRECTOR, FBI (105-37137)

DATE: DEC 19 1967

FROM :

SAC, NEW YORK (100-102397) (C)

SUBJECT:

JOHN OLIVER KILLENS
SM - C
(OO: NEW YORK)

11/22/02
CLASSIFIED BY SP4/MLT/gat-60267-AMC
DECLASSIFY ON: 25X2

b1

(S)
On December 7, 1967, Mrs. GRACE KILLENS, subject's spouse, was contacted by SA [redacted] at her residence, phone number SL 6-9270, an unpublished number. The pretext

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b7E

Mrs. KILLENS confirmed her husband's continued position as author-in-residence at Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee, and temporary residence in Apartment 25, Burrows Apartments, Fisk University Campus, 16th and Meharry Blvd., Nashville, Tennessee.

She advised that subject plans to spend some time with her at their permanent residence, 1392 Union Street, Brooklyn, New York, over the Christmas - New Years holidays, following which he will again return to Nashville, Tennessee. In a lengthy conversation with Mrs. KILLENS, it was intimated that CORE would be interested, particularly, in a speaker who might recently have been to Russia. To this, Mrs. KILLENS responded that possibly CORE would not be interested in utilizing subject's services as neither she nor subject had been in the recent past, nor do they plan in the immediate future to visit the Soviet Union.

10 2 - Bureau (RM)
1 - ~~Memphis~~ (INFO) (RM)
1 - New York
WAC:kpk
(4)

REC-28

11 DEC 21 1967


54 DEC 28 1967



5010-108

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

NY 100-102397


It is noted that subject is included in Section A of the Research Index. A review of his New York case file reflects no pertinent, reportable information. Accordingly, no further action will be taken in this case at this time, and New York is returning this case to a closed status.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
MEMORANDUM

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI [redacted] (S)

DATE: 12/19/67

FROM: SAC, NEWARK [redacted] (S) (RUC)

b1

b1

SUBJECT: [redacted] (S)

11/27/02
CLASSIFIED BY [redacted]
DECLASSIFY ON: 25X [redacted]

Re New York airtel to Bureau dated 11/27/67.

[redacted]
[redacted] (S)

[redacted]
[redacted] (S)

b1

[redacted]
[redacted] (S)

7113

W

[redacted]
[redacted] (S)
[redacted] (S)

ORIGINAL FILED IN

4-Bureau (RM)
(1-105-37137) (KILLENS)

105-37127-

4-New York [redacted] (S)
(1-100-102397) (KILLENS)

NOT RECORDED
DEC 21 1967

3-Newark [redacted] (S)

JJR/rmd
(11) 3 DEC 29 1967

b1

DIRECTOR, FBI (105-137671)

6/6/68

SAC, [redacted] (C)
(P)

b1

[redacted] (C)

[redacted]

b1

[redacted]

[redacted] (S)

KILLENS appears identical to JOHN OLIVER KILLENS,
a New York subject. Above is submitted for information.

[redacted]

b1

[redacted] (S)

- 3 - Bureau
(1 - 105-37137) (KILLENS)
- 3 - New York [redacted] Rm(s)
(1 - 100-102397)
- 3 - WFO
(1 - 105-11703) (KILLENS)

b1

WLS:skt
(9)

11/22/02
CLASSIFIED BY JDS/OUT/CAE-60267-A716
DECLASSIFY ON: 25X1.6
FOIPA# 967567

b1

NOT RECORDED
128 JUN . 7 1968

RA Fb/ 1968

ORIGINAL FILED IN

DIRECTOR, FBI [redacted] (S)

6/17/68

SAC, WFO [redacted] (S)
(P)

b1

[redacted] (S)

[redacted]

[redacted] (S)

[redacted]

[redacted] (S)

[redacted]

b1

[redacted] (S)

Above for the info of the NYO.

[redacted]

[redacted] (S)

(3) - Bureau

(1- 105-37137) (KILLENS)

2 - New York [redacted] (RM) (info) (S)

(1- 100-102397) (KILLINS)

2 - WFO

(1- 105-11703) (KILLENS)

11/27/02
CLASSIFIED BY 11/30/02
DECLASSIFY ON: 60267-1016

b1

b1

VPD:Lab
(7)

51 JUN 21 1968

NOT RECORDED
JUN 19 1968

ORIGINAL FILED IN

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO

DIRECTOR, FBI (105-37137)
(100-406272)

DATE: 7/23/68

FROM

SAC, NEW YORK (100-102397) (C)
(100-102803) (C)

SUBJECT

JOHN OLIVER KILLENS
SM-C

GRACE KILLENS
SM-C

Enclosed are six copies of an LHM reflecting travel to the USSR by GRACE and JOHN OLIVER KILLENS.

The first confidential source is [REDACTED]
The second confidential source is [REDACTED] The third
confidential source is [REDACTED] The fourth confidential
source is [REDACTED] (S)

This LHM is classified "Secret - No Foreign
Dissemination" [REDACTED] (S)

11/22/02
CLASSIFIED BY [REDACTED] 105-37137-25
DECLASSIFY ON: 25XZ

105-37137-25 COPY OF ENCL FILED IN

b2

b7D

b1

- ④ - Bureau (Encls. 6) (RM)
(2 - 100-406272)
1 - New York (100-102397)
1 - New York (100-102803)

TJR:cms
(6)

Copy to [REDACTED]
by routing slip for

☒ info ☐ action
date 7/23/68
by [REDACTED]

AGENCY 1cc 2/1/70
REQ REC D 2/20/70
REP T FORW 3/6/70
BY TJR:cms
cc [REDACTED]

REC-52

15 JUL 24 1968

b7C



5010-108

AUG - 1 1968

Buy U S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

New York, New York

July 23, 1968

In Reply, Please Refer to

File No. BUFILES 105-37137
100-406272

~~SECRET - NO FOREIGN DISSEMINATION~~

NYFILES 100-102397
100-102803

John Oliver Killens
Grace Killens
Security Matter-C

All confidential sources mentioned in this memorandum are individuals who have furnished reliable information in the past.

I. BACKGROUND

John Oliver Killens, born January 14, 1916, Macon, Georgia and married Grace Ward Jones on June 19, 1943 at Brooklyn, New York. He resides at 1392 Union Street, Brooklyn, New York and is author-in-residence at Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee. He has a temporary residence in Apartment 25, Burrows Apartments, Fisk University Campus, 16th and Meharry Boulevard, Nashville, Tennessee.

Grace Killens was born on June 25, 1919, Brooklyn, New York and resides at 1392 Union Street, Brooklyn, New York.

II. AFFILIATION WITH THE COMMUNIST PARTY
(CP) MOVEMENT

John Oliver Killens

11/22/02
CLASSIFIED BY SP2 MTL/cab
DECLASSIFY ON: 25X/

Killens was interviewed under oath by Special Agent (SA) R.F. RYAN on February 26, 1942 and stated that he had been a member of the Washington Committee for Democratic Action. He also stated he had been a delegate to a conference of the American Youth Congress held in 1941 and that he had participated in the activities and made contributions to the National Negro Congress but that he was never an active member of this organization.

COPIES DESTROYED

113 MAY 15 1972

~~SECRET - NO FOREIGN DISSEMINATION~~
GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

ENCLOSURE

105-37137-25

~~SECRET - NO FOREIGN DISSEMINATION~~

John Oliver Killens
Grace Killens

The Washington Committee for Democratic Action, the American Youth Congress and the National Negro Congress have been designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

The confidential source advised on June 24, 1963, that John Killens was the speaker at the Militant Labor Forum held June 21, 1963, at 116 University Place, New York.

A second confidential source advised on September 19, 1963, that the Militant Labor Forum was sponsored by the Socialist Workers Party (SWP).

The SWP has been designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

The June 6, 1965 edition of "The Worker" on page 8, contains a photograph of the subject, described as a Negro American novelist, who is pictured observing two other individuals, described as former Buchenwald Concentration Camp inmates, greeting each other at a Weimar German Democratic Republic Convention of writers from 52 countries.

The article on page 7 of that issue described the gathering as a Commemoration of the 20th Anniversary of Liberation from Hitler Fascism and the 30th Anniversary of the Paris Writers Congress. According to the article, the meeting began in Berlin on May 14, 1965, and ended in Weimar on May 19, 1965.

~~SECRET - NO FOREIGN DISSEMINATION~~

~~SECRET - NO FOREIGN DISSEMINATION~~

John Oliver Killens
Grace Killens

"The Worker" was an east coast
Communist newspaper that suspended
publication.

The June 19, 1965 edition of "People's World"
on page 7, contained an article concerning a group of
writers who gathered at the Weimar German Democratic
Republic during May, 1965. The article states that John
Oliver Killens was one of the individuals who attended
the conference.

"People's World" is a west coast
Communist newspaper.

A third confidential source advised on November
18, 1965 that Killens was requested to contribute an
article to the spring, 1966 issue of "Freedomways"
magazine.

A characterization of Freedomways
Associates, Incorporated, publishers
of "Freedomways" appears in the appendix
section attached hereto.

Grace Killens

A fourth confidential source on January 6,
1954, advised that the subject was employed by the
Amtorg Trading Corporation in 1942.

A characterization of the Amtorg
Trading Corporation appears in the
appendix section attached hereto.

A fifth confidential source advised in the
spring of 1949 that subject was employed at the Bulgarian
Legation, Washington, D.C., in March, 1948.

~~SECRET - NO FOREIGN DISSEMINATION~~

~~SECRET - NO FOREIGN DISSEMINATION~~

John Oliver Killens
Grace Killens

III. TRAVEL DATA

(S)

b1

(S)

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

The following is a description of Grace Killens:

Name	Grace Killens also known as Grace Ward Jones Mrs. John Oliver Killens
Sex	Female
Race	Negro
Date of Birth	June 25, 1919
Place of Birth	Brooklyn, New York
Age	49
Height	Five feet, two inches
Weight	125
Build	Medium
Hair	Black
Eyes	Brown

Killens: The following description is of John Oliver

Name	John Oliver Killens
Sex	Male
Race	Negro
Date of Birth	January 14, 1916

~~SECRET - NO FOREIGN DISSEMINATION~~

~~SECRET - NO FOREIGN DISSEMINATION~~

John Oliver Killens
Grace Killens

Place of Birth	Macon, Georgia
Age	52
Height	Five feet, nine inches
Weight	140
Build	Medium
Hair	Black
Eyes	Brown
Complexion	Dark

~~SECRET - NO FOREIGN DISSEMINATION~~

John Oliver Killens
Grace Killens

~~SECRET - NO FOREIGN DISSEMINATION~~

APPENDIX

1.

"AMTORG TRADING CORPORATION"

AMTORG TRADING CORPORATION, according to records of the New York County Clerk, is a New York corporation formed in 1924. It has acted since then as a buying and selling agency in the United States for most of the foreign trade organizations of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Since 1949, it has been registered with the United States Department of Justice pursuant to the provisions of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended.

~~SECRET - NO FOREIGN DISSEMINATION~~

John Oliver Killens
Grace Killens

APPENDIX

1.

FREEDOMWAYS ASSOCIATES, INC.

The records of the New York State Secretary of State, Albany, New York, show that the Certificate of Incorporation of Freedomways Associates, Inc., was filed on March 2, 1961.

On May 24, 1961, a source advised that a report was given on "Freedomways" at a meeting of the National Board, Communist Party, USA (CP, USA), held on May 24, 1961. It was stated that the central purpose of "Freedomways" is to develop a theory and positive criticism of currents in the Negro Movement, as well as to raise the level of understanding and discussion taking place in Negro life today and to project a socialist and pro-Soviet orientation.

On May 25, 1961, a second source advised that "Freedomways" was set up for the CP, USA by JAMES JACKSON.

The First Quarter, 1967, issue of "Freedomways", self-described as "A Quarterly Review of the Negro Freedom Movement" published by Freedomways Associates, Incorporated, 799 Broadway, New York City, lists the following as its editorial staff:

JOHN HENRIK CLARKE, Associate Editor
ESTHER JACKSON, Managing Editor
J. H. O'DELL, Associate Managing Editor
JOHN L. DEVINE, Art Editor

A third source made available information on July 1, 1964, indicating that JOHN HENRIK CLARKE attended the first and founding meeting of the American Institute for Marxist Studies (AIMS) which was held on December 19, 1963, and continued on January 10, 1964.

This source also made available information on August 14, 1964, indicating that CLARKE is an "Associate" of AIM

On March 16, 1966, the second source advised that JAMES JACKSON, accompanied by his wife, ESTHER JACKSON, was scheduled to depart on March 25, 1966, from the United States en route to Moscow to attend the 23rd Congress of the CP of the

John Oliver Killens
Grace Killens

APPENDIX

~~SECRET - NO FOREIGN DISSEMINATION~~

2.

FREEDOMWAYS ASSOCIATES, INC. (CONTINUED)

Soviet Union. This source described JAMES JACKSON as a member of the National Committee, CP, USA.

On July 26, 1966, a fourth source identified O'DELL as a member of the CP.

On January 30, 1961, SYLVIA M. BRENNER DEVINE, 415 South 50th Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, advised that her former husband, JACK DEVINE, mentioned on December 17, 1960, that he was still in the CP and that the CP is his whole life.

On July 24, 1963, a fifth source described JOHN DEVINE as a CP member.

A characterization of AIMS is set out separately.

~~SECRET - NO FOREIGN DISSEMINATION~~

Seminar on Black Culture Begins at Columbia

John O. Killens Is Directing 'Debrainwash' Attempt

By EARL CALDWELL

A graduate seminar in black culture and a creative writing workshop in the black experience has begun at Columbia University under the direction of John O. Killens, the author

Mr Killens is one of the Negro writers whose present task, he said, is to "debrainwash" black people

"We have to undo the millions of little white lies that America told itself and the world about the American black man," the 52-year-old novelist said in an interview last week

Mr Killens holds that it is up to the black writer to interpret the so-called black revolution, dramatize it and point it in a certain direction

But he maintained that the revolution itself had not yet begun. Instead, he argued, Negroes have been deceived into believing that they are going through the revolution

No Longer a 'Dirty Word'

"Six or seven years ago revolution was a dirty word," he said "Then all of a sudden some white guy said that what Negroes were into was revolution. Then all Negroes started running around talking that they were into a revolution

"I think this was a tactic to keep Negroes from moving. If you're in a revolution you don't have to move toward one"

Discussing his educational duties at Columbia, which is on the fringe of Harlem, Mr Killens said

"It is encouraging to see Columbia finally reach out and respond to the community around it. I hope this kind of experience can become an innovation that will reach out to colleges and universities throughout the country"

Assignment at Fisk

"This is his second academic assignment. From 1965 until 1968 he was writer-in-residence at Fisk University in Nashville, Tenn.

An advocate of black studies programs, Mr Killens said the students were "beautiful" but "still have illusions." He said that basically what the students were now saying was that the universities should have some relevance to their lives.

"That is a revolutionary concept," he continued, "but that does not mean that we are in a revolution."

In the interview at his home, on a quiet block in the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn, Mr. Killens said he had noted a change in the work of Negro writers

"Generally speaking," he said, "most black writers have decided to move from the realm of social protest to the realm of affirmation and revolution"

Calls It Healthy

He called this a "very healthy" development "What's being done now is more positive," he explained "It's not just a protest of how bad white folks are treating us"

But Mr Killens added that the black writer was still confronted with many problems

"The basic one," he said, "is that he is anti-Establishment and he has to go to the Estab-

lishment for his publishing. I think the answer to this is for black people to create some publishing houses"

Mr Killens, who is now completing his fourth work of fiction, was also critical of white reviewers.

"White critics are totally—and I mean totally—incapable of criticizing the black writer," he said "They don't understand Afro-Americanese."

He said that white critics tend to bring "the white experience to the black experience" but that "it doesn't work"

Mr Killens's latest book, "The Cotillion," is a satire on the black bourgeoisie. He said that he expected "to lose a few friends" when it was published

His other works of fiction are "Youngblood," "And Then We Heard Thunder" and "Sippi." He also is the author of a nonfiction work, "Black Man's Burden"

Mr Killens has also written a play, "Lower Than Angels," and two screenplays, "Odds Against Tomorrow" and "The Slaves." "The Slaves," which stars Ossie Davis and Dionne Warwick, will be released in about a month.



John O. Killens

105-37137

SP-1/2/22/14

105-37137-A-

1968

1968

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The Washington Daily News _____
The Evening Star (Washington) _____
The Sunday Star (Washington) _____
Daily News (New York) _____
Sunday News (New York) _____
New York Post _____
The New York Times _____
The Sun (Baltimore) _____
The Daily World _____
The New Leader _____
The Wall Street Journal _____
The National Observer _____
People's World _____
Examiner (Washington) _____

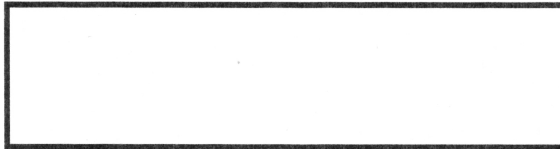
Date _____

55 MAR 26 1968

~~SECRET~~

March 6, 1970

BY LIAISON



b7C

SGE

There is attached a copy of a Standard Form 86 on [redacted] received by this Bureau from the Civil Service Commission for processing under Executive Order 10450 (Federal Employee Security Program).

There are attached single copies of ten investigative reports and seven memoranda relating to John Oliver Killens [redacted]

b7C

These are furnished for your information and do not constitute a clearance or disapproval of [redacted] for Federal employment. No action is contemplated by the FBI regarding your employee under the provisions of Executive Order 10450 in the absence of a specific request. This material is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

Upon removal of classified enclosures, this document becomes unclassified.

Enclosures (18)

REC 8.

105-37137-26

14 MAR 26 1970

4/22/02

SP2 - LT/gh

LHM to Government Printing Office by 0-14 By Liaison.
Enclosures are from 105-37137

JAR:sfr
(4)

~~Classified secret~~ as one memorandum
so classified.

~~SECRET~~

Tolson _____
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Bishop _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

55 APR 8 1970

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT ☐

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Date

Searcher

Initial

Prod.

FILE NUMBER

SERIAL

b7C

FEB 19 1970

(8)

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

~~SECRET~~

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (105-37137)

DATE: 4/22/71

FROM: SAC, WFO (105-11703)(RUC)

SUBJECT: JOHN OLIVER KILLENS

SM - C
(OO:NY)

RE-A
summary

UNRECORDED FILED IN 100-348627

[Redacted]

(s)

[Redacted]

(s)

[Redacted]

(s)

③ Bureau

(1-100-348627) [Redacted]

3- New York (105-102397) Rm b7C

(1-100-82646) [Redacted]

4- WFO

(1-105-63346) [Redacted]

(1-100-16597, Sub T)

WLS:kmc
(10)

12/02/02
CLASSIFIED BY [Redacted]
DECLASSIFY ON: [Redacted]

EX-11 105-37137-27

APR 23 1971

INT. SEC.



9/69
MAY 8 1971

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

WFO 105-11703

~~SECRET~~

b1

(S)

It should be noted that KILLENS is identical to the subject of this communication.

The above is being furnished to the Bureau and to the New York Office for information.

F B I

Date

5/11/71

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

AIRTEL

Via _____
(Priority)

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (105-37137)

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (100-102397) (C)

SUBJECT: JOHN OLIVER KILLENS 11/22/02
SM - C

ReNYlet and LHM, 7/23/68, WFO letter 4/22/71, and
Bureau O-7, 5/5/71.

Enclosed are five copies of letterhead memorandum

[REDACTED] (S)

The LHM is classified "SECRET - NO FOREIGN
DISSEMINATION" as directed by WFO.

NYO files have been reviewed for pertinent information
since re NYlet and LHM. Several references to him by informants
indicated his interest in civil rights and Negro history in
his capacity as author. The information has not been
included in LHM because of it's non-specific character.

The available information on subject does not
indicate his association with any organization that would
require any additional investigation of him at this time.

2- Bureau (Encls. 5) (RM)
1- New York

JVW:ptp
(4)

ST-11

REC 12

105-37137-28

12 MAY 1971

INT. SEC.

60 MAY 20 1971

Approved

Special Agent in Charge

Sent

M

Per



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No

New York, New York
May 11, 1971

Bufile 105-37137
New York 100-102397

~~SECRET - NO FOREIGN DISSEMINATION~~

John Oliver Killens
Security Matter - C

b1

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (S)

Killens responded that he would be there and was told
he would receive an official invitation.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (S)

There follows his description:

~~SECRET - NO FOREIGN DISSEMINATION~~

11/22/02
CLASSIFIED BY [REDACTED]
DECLASSIFY ON: [REDACTED]

105-37137 -28

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

This document contains neither
recommendations nor conclusions
of the FBI. It is the property
of the FBI and is loaned to your
agency; it and its contents are
not to be distributed outside
your agency.

John Oliver Killens

Age	55
Date and Place of Birth	January 14, 1916, Macon , Georgia
Race	Negro
Height	5'9"
Weight	140 pounds
Hair	Black
Eyes	Brown
Complexion	Dark
Wife	Grace
Occupation	Writer, teacher
Residence	1392 Union Street, Brooklyn, New York

The 1970 - 1971 directory of the staff of Columbia University, New York City, lists John O. Killens as Adjunct Professor of Writing.

The "Nashville Tennessean", Nashville, Tennessee, February 13, 1971, reported that John Oliver Killens, described as author, essayist and critic, of Brooklyn, New York, was to be a **guest consultant** at a Workshop, at Fisk University's Institute on Inservice Training in the Teaching of Black Literature.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : ACTING DIRECTOR, FBI (157-24241) DATE: 7/5/72
105-37137

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (100-102397)(C)

SUBJECT: JOHN O. KILLENS
EM - RNA
SM - E
(OO:NY)

ReJNlet and LHM to Bureau, dated 3/20/72 and
captioned "NEW AFRICAN PRISONER OF WAR FUND; LEGAL DEFENSE
FOR RNA - 11, EM - RNA, OO:JN".

Enclosed for the Bureau are five copies of an LHM,
dated and captioned as above. Also, two copies are enclosed
for Jackson.

Previous investigation has been conducted
concerning JOHN KILLENS [redacted] file
numbers as follows: JOHN KILLENS, NYfile 100-102397,
Bufile 105-37137: [redacted]

Identity of source utilized in the attached LHM
is former [redacted]

Sources contacted with negative results:

The representative of the FBI who caused the
search of the personnel records at Columbia University was
SA [redacted]

A review of NYfile 100-102397 reveals that no
pertinent subversive information concerning JOHN KILLENS
[redacted] has come to the attention of
the NYO since early 1971. Numerous references to KILLEN by

2 - Bureau (Encls. 5) (RM)
2 - Jackson (Encls. 2) (RM)
1 - New York

DMT:j1
(5)



5010-108

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/22/02 BY 22041/46

REC 17 105-37137-29

17 JUL 7 1972

EXT. SEC.

INT. SEC.

NY 100-102397

informants indicated his interest in civil rights and Negro history in his capacity as an author. This information has not been included in LHM because of its non-specific characteristics. The available information on the subject and a canvass of the informants does not indicate his association with any organization that would require any additional investigation at this time.

This LHM is classified "Confidential" since it contains information furnished from sources, any unauthorized disclosure of this information could be prejudicial to the defense interests of the US.



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
New York, New York
July 5, 1972

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No. Bufile 157-24241
NYfile 100-102397

John O. Killens
Extremist Matters -
Republic of New Africa (RNA)
Security Matter - C

The RNA was founded in Detroit, Michigan, in March, 1968. Its purpose is to establish an independent black nation within the United States, demanding the States of Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Mississippi, and \$10,000 per black citizen for reparations. The RNA, a violence-prone, black extremist, separatist organization, is now headquartered in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Reference is made to previous Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) memoranda, dated May 11, 1971 and July 23, 1968.

On December 27, 1971, a source advised that John O. Killens, 1392 Union Street, Brooklyn, New York (NY), issued a check on December 26, 1971 for \$100 payable to the Republic of New Africa for deposit in the New African Prisoner of War Fund in Jackson, Mississippi.

The 1971-1972 directory of the staff of Columbia University, New York City (NYC), lists John O. Killens as Adjunct Professor of Writing.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~GROUP I~~
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification.

11/22/82 *SP2M/T/pt*

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

105-37137-29
ENCLOSURE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

John O. Killens

On June 22, 1972, a representative of the FBI caused a search to be made in the personnel files of the Columbia University, NYC, NY, which revealed that John Oliver Killens, 1392 Union Street, Brooklyn, NY, is a United States (US) citizen and married to Grace Killens. Killens was formerly employed by Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee, as a writer in residence from February, 1965 to June, 1968. Killens has been employed by Columbia University since February 1, 1969 as an Adjunct Professor in the School of Arts.

The following description was obtained from the records:

Name	John Oliver Killens
Sex	Male
Race	Negro
Date of birth	January 14, 1916
Place of birth	Macon, Georgia
Height	Five feet nine inches
Weight	140 pounds

During April, May and June, 1972 several sources, who are familiar with the RNA and other black nationalist groups, were contacted in efforts to obtain any information concerning Killen's affiliation with the RNA, but at no time was any positive information ever developed.

- 2* -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

New York, New York

July 5, 1972

In Reply, Please Refer to

File No. Bufile 157-24241

NYfile 100-102397

Title John O. Killens

Character

Extremist Matters - Republic
of New Africa
Security Matter-C

Reference

is made to New York memorandum,
dated and captioned as above.

All sources (except any listed below) whose identities
are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable
information in the past.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/22/02 BY SP2mrt/kat

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : ACTING DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 2/28/73

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK

SUBJECT: BLACK LIBERATION ARMY
EM-URBAN GUERRILLA WARFARE
BuFILE 157-10555
NYFILE 157-7347

JOHN O. KILLENS
EM-RNA 105-37137
BuFILE 100-37137
NYFILE 100-102397

ReNYlet to Acting Director, dated 1/11/73 and captioned "BLACK LIBERATION ARMY, EM-URBAN GUERRILLA WARFARE".

[REDACTED] contained the name JOHN O. KILLENS 757-9187. *NY*

b2

Telephone # 757-9187 is a non-published phone subscribed to by GRACE KILLENS, 1392 Union St., Brooklyn, NY.

of
~~GRACE KILLENS~~ is the wife of the subject JOHN O. KILLENS.

JOHN O. KILLENS resides at 1392 Union St., Brooklyn, NY, and is employed as a professor at Columbia University.

It is believed that an attempt to interview the subject would be unproductive. Since the subject has been fully identified, this case is being placed in closed status.

4- Bureau (RM)

2- 157-10555

2- 100-37137

1- New York (157-7347)

1- New York (100-102397)

AFN:dc

(6)

70 MAR 1 4 1973

REC 25

105-37137-30

EX-101

21 MAR 5 1973



5010-108

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

2-5, 1973

☐ Name Searching Unit - Room 6527
☒ Service Unit - Room 6524
☐ Forward to File Review
☐ Attention
☐ Return to 806 2780
Supervisor Room Ext.

☐ Regular Request (Analytical Search)
☐ All References (Subversive & Nonsubversive)
☒ Subversive References Only
☐ Nonsubversive References Only
☒ Main, sub References Only

☐ Restricted to Locality of _____
☒ Exact Name Only (On the Nose)
☐ Buildup ☐ Variations

Subject JOHN OLIVER KILLENS
Birthdate & Place 1/14/16, USA
Address _____

Localities _____

R# _____ Date 9/6 Searcher _____
Initials Caj
Prod. _____

FILE NUMBER SERIAL

MF 105-37137 T ✓
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